

Taylor et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/948,525
Page 6

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 7, 12, 15, 25 and 29-34 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner renumbering claims 29-45.

Claims 1, 5 and 31-36 have been amended, and claims 37-45 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments of claims 1 and 5 appears in the original claims, and the amendments of claims 31-36 merely correct dependencies.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Takeda et al. (US 2001/0036593).

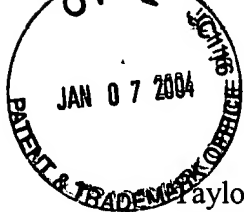
Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Takeda et al. (US 2001/0036593).

Claims 37-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Takeda et al. (US 2001/0036593).

For the sake of brevity, the several rejections based the Takeda et al. document are addressed in combination.

While Applicants fully disagree with the rejections, it is also believed the amendments have been obviated by the amendments made herein. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite subject matter indicated to be allowable. Claims 37-45 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.



Taylor et al.
U.S.S.N. 09/948,525
Page 7

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2004
TC 1700

Claims 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 35 and 36 have been amended to provide corrected dependencies. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

Claims 38-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 38-43 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is thus believed the rejection has been obviated and is properly withdrawn.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter F. Corless (Reg. 33,860)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
(617) 439-4444